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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/592,387	06/12/2000	Carl T. Anderson	RSW9-2000-0026-US1	5014

7590

04/11/2003

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EXAMINER

CHUONG, TRUC T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2174

DATE MAILED: 04/11/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/592,387

Applicant(s)

ANDERSON ET AL.

Examiner

Truc T Chuong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hughes (U.S. Patent No. 6,275,223).

As to claim 1, Hughes teaches a user assistance system for providing user assistance in connection with procedures associated with the operation of a computer program running on a computer system, each of said procedures comprising in interrelated series of steps, with one of the steps being a currently-selected step, said user assistance system comprising:

a client area displaying information pertaining to the currently-selected step (col. 3 lines 38-43); and

a navigator bar adjacent to said work area (figs. 7-10, 15, and 17), said navigator bar displaying a visual representation of said interrelated series of steps associated with said currently-selected step (lines of code 1801 and 1802 of fig. 18 show the corresponding with each line of code of fig. 17 above).

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As to claim 2, Hughes teaches the user assistance system of claim 1, wherein said navigator bar is dividable into segments, with each segment corresponding to one of said steps of said interrelated series of steps (figs. 15).

As to claim 3, Hughes teaches the user assistance system of claim 2, wherein said visual representation of said interrelated series of steps displayed by said navigator bar includes a display of future steps not yet performed by said computer program (Next icon of fig. 15).

As to claim 4, Hughes teaches the user-assistance program of claim 3, wherein said future steps comprise the most likely steps to be traversed for the procedure associated with the interrelated series of steps being displayed (Previous icon of fig. 15).

As to claim 5, Hughes teaches the user assistance system of claim 4, wherein said visual representation of said interrelated series of steps displayed by said navigator bar further includes:

past steps already performed by said computer program (first source code, col. 12 lines 23-37 and fig. 15); and

the currently-selected step (directly compare, col. 12 lines 34-37).

As to claim 6, Hughes teaches the user assistance system of claim 5, wherein said segments include active segments and inactive segments (demonstration 1.1 and 1.2 of figs. 15), and wherein selection of an active segment changes the currently-selected step to the step corresponding to said selected active segment (col. 12 lines 3-60).

As to claim 7, Hughes teaches the user assistance system of claim 6, wherein said navigator bar displays said segments in a serial manner, and wherein said navigator bar can be scrolled to allow viewing of segments preceding or following said segment corresponding to said currently-selected step (scroll, col. 12 lines 51-61).

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As to claim 8, Hughes teaches the user assistance system of claim 7, wherein the action of scrolling said navigator bar does not change the information being displayed in said client area (col. 12 lines 51-61, figs. 15 and 17).

As to claim 9, Hughes teaches the user assistance system of claim 8, wherein said information displayed in said client area comprises a selectable list of alternative choices for subsequent steps to be taken by said computer program (Annotation of figs. 17-18).

As to claim 10, Hughes teaches the user assistance system of claim 9, wherein selection of one of said alternative choices causes said display of future steps not yet performed by said computer program to change to a display of said future steps associated with said selected alternative choice (before source code is implemented, col. 15 lines 32-42 and figs. 17-18).

As to claims 11-20, they are method claims of system claims 1-10. Note the rejections of claims 1-10 above respectively.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bates et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,877,766) teach assistant, navigation, associated, and current status (cols. 3-41 and figs. 1-39).

Wicks et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,394) teach assistant, navigation, status, and device (cols. 2-12 and figs. 2-11).

Leshem et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,559) teach navigation, status, web, and GUI (cols. 2-118 and figs. 1-24).

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truc T Chuong whose telephone number is 703-305-5753. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on 703-308-0640. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Truc T. Chuong
April 7, 2003

Kristine Kincaid
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